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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the interest in how children spend their out-of-school time has resulted in program development projects at the local and state level and has influenced state and federal policymakers to propose legislation supportive of school-age child care programs. Gubernatorial and legislative efforts have succeeded in several states. Successful policy proposals involve enabling legislation that encourages public school space for before- and after-school programs in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Arizona, and full-scale funding programs for school-age child care in California, Indiana, and New York. Under the federal Dependent Care Grants Program (DCGP), states can apply for funds to set up school-age child care programs. The DCGP has been reauthorized by Congress at 20 million dollars per year for fiscal years 1987-1990. While there are many possibilities for policy initiatives, particular attention should be directed to the needs of children of minority families in poverty. This publication's working list of state policy initiatives on school-age child care provides brief summaries of state initiatives followed by more extensive state-by-state descriptions. (RH)

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STATE INITIATIVES ON SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE

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STATE INITIATIVES ON SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE

Two themes have driven and informed the work of the School-Age Child Care Project since its inception in 1979: practice and policy. Practice and policy are intertwined: the demand for programs and their development will necessitate policy attention and, similarly, policy attention can serve to expand available services, improve them, and make them more accessible to families.

In recent years the explosion of interest in and concern about how children spend their out-of-school time has resulted in program development projects at the local and state level, and has also influenced state and federal policymakers to propose legislation supportive of school-age child care programs. Gubernatorial and legislative efforts have been successful in several states. Successful policy proposals range from instituting enabling legislation encouraging public school space for before- and after-school programs (Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Arizona) to full-scale funding programs for school-age child care (California, Indiana, and New York).

Federal efforts have finally paid off, after years of unsuccessful legislative attempts. Under the current Dependent Care Grants Program, fashioned from a bill originally introduced in Congress by Senator Donald Riegle, Jr., Democrat of Michigan, states can apply for funds to set up school-age child care programs. The program, first authorized in April 1986 at $20 million per year, received only $4.785 million in appropriations, is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget. States are mandated to use 40% of the funds for the planning, development, establishment, expansion, or improvement of state and local dependent-care resource and referral systems and 60% for programs to furnish child care services before and after school in public and private school facilities or in community centers.

The Dependent Care Grants Program has been reauthorized by Congress for four years at $20 million per year, for fiscal years 1987 through 1990. This matches the authorization level for the previous years. The appropriation for FY89 was set at $11.9 million, an increase of $3.5 million over the previous year. It is expected that the FY90 appropriation will be between the House approved $11.856 million and the Senate approved $14.856 million amounts.

There are multiple possibilities for policy initiatives. But it is important to keep in mind that many school-age children live in families where paying for an after-school program for an eight year old, for example, is simply too much for that family to afford. The number of children in poverty is rising, especially minority children. It is these children and their families for whom the most significant efforts should continue to be made in the state policy arena. States have a role to play as initiator and funder for school-age child care to serve this population, especially in the absences of additional federal funding programs.

In *School-Age Child Care: A Policy Report*, published in 1983, we recommended that policy action in school-age child care should concentrate on:

- learning about parents' demand for school-age child care
- increasing the supply of services, and remediating or initiating policies in order to reduce barriers to development and delivery
- expanding financial support so that more low-income families can use services

In 1989 these recommendations still hold and, at least in the foreseeable future, there is every reason to expect that families in America will continue to turn to policymakers for help in creating safe and appropriate care arrangements for their young children.

The following list of state policy initiatives goes beyond the federal DCBG program. They have supplemented and embellished start-up and mostly operational support for school-age child care. This report should be considered a "working list," one that will be updated and expanded frequently. For more in-depth information on how these states implemented their policies, names to contact in each state have been included.

For additional information and technical assistance, please contact:

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Other publications available from the School-Age Child Care Project:

School-Age Child Care: An Action Manual
School-Age Child Care: A Policy Report
School-Age Child Care: A Legal Manual
When School's Out and Nobody's Home
No Time to Waste: An Action Agenda for School-Age Child Care
School-Age Children with Special Needs: What Do They Do When School is Out?

BRIEF SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA

The Legislature originally allocated $16 million for ongoing school-age child care funding and $14 million for a one-time capital outlay of equipment and materials. The appropriation was adjusted upward in 1988 to $16.75 million to reflect inflation.

CONNECTICUT

The General Assembly originally allocated $250,000 to fund the school-age pilot project. Municipalities, Boards of Education, or any child care provider may apply the grant toward increased liability, maintenance, utility costs, and transportation. Funding was increased to $296,300 for 1989.

DELAWARE

In 1989, the state will provide $200,000 in grants to local school districts to establish and defray hidden costs of hosting child care programs for grades one through six in public school buildings. These grants are to cover start-up costs only. The money will be administered through the Department of Public Instruction. *

FLORIDA

In July 1986, a new enactment on school-age child care was passed which appropriated $300,000 for start-up/incentive grants for educational and recreational before- and after-school programs in the public schools. The 1988 level of appropriation increased to $500,000. However in 1989, appropriations were tripled to $1.5 million with money coming from the state lottery.

HAWAII

In the late spring of 1989, the Lt. Governor came forth with a major initiative which would provide low cost, after-school child care in every elementary school in the state. Funding for this initiative, "The A-Plus Program," amounts to more than $7.5 million. Additionally, the Legislature, during its FY89 session, appropriated $500,000 to fund a demonstration project which would support the start-up of after-school programs in nine intermediate schools throughout the state. *

INDIANA

During FY86 and FY87, the General Assembly spent $270,000 on state grants for ten latchkey pilot programs. In FY88, a new amendment was passed allowing more funds to be appropriated each year until 1992 at which time a decision will be made leading to either cancellation or permanent reenactment. The legislators appropriated $550,000 in FY90.

IOWA

Through the Department of Economic Development, Iowa appropriated $105,000 of state funds and $50,000 in federal funds to provide grants primarily for start-up costs for before- and after-school child care programs in FY88. The grants are not exceed $10,000 and may go only to programs at school sites. In FY87, 20 small grants were given. *

MAINE

As a result of the findings from a statewide survey and a series of public hearings conducted by Maine's Child Care Task Force in 1986, the Legislature allocated $50,000 to the newly established Office of Child Care Coordination for school-age child care start-up grants. The appropriation was increased in 1988 by an additional $75,000 per year, making the total amount available each year $125,000.

NEW JERSEY

After successfully passing through the Education Committees of both houses of the Legislature, a bill was passed in the summer of 1987 for FY88 with funding of $500,000 per year. The first year grant was for planning a school-age child care project, and subsequent years' funding is for direct services and start-up costs of running the before- and after-school programs.

NEW YORK

In 1984 and 1985, the Governor signed into law an act that appropriated $300,000 each year to develop or expand a total of 68 school-age child care programs across the state. In FY86, $300,000 was awarded to fund 33 programs, and in the Governor's Budget for FY87, $600,000 was allocated for 63 new start-up grants. The funding level for 1988 and 1989 has remained the same.

NORTH CAROLINA

In FY88, $4.2 million was appropriated for one time only start-up costs to begin a school-age child care project. Each local school district is afforded $30,000. Although the effort is coordinated through the public school system, schools are allowed to contract with private providers. *

OHIO

In 1987, the Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education issued 35 "adoption grants" of $6,000 each to school districts wishing to replicate for themselves one of the school-age child care, preschool, or early childhood screening models developed in 1986. Funding was increased to $249,288 in FY88 and again upward to $256,767 for FY89. Funding for FY90 is set at $252,000 with approximately $50,000 going to school-age child care.

PENNSYLVANIA

Originally, $745,000 in latchkey funds were distributed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1986. In Fiscal 88/89, the state expended $8.1 million on its school-age child care programs. It is anticipated that more funds will be committed to school-age child care by the State legislatures through both the Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Education.

RHODE ISLAND

The General Assembly and the Governor's Focus on the Family Program appropriated up to $200,000 annually for 3 years ending June 30, 1989, for start-up and expansion grants across the state. Since 1986, 27 agencies including one municipality and three school departments have received grants for the start-up or expansion of school-age child care programs at 30 separate sites. In total, more than 900 new slots have been developed for latchkey children.

PARTIAL LISTING OF STATES WITH ENABLING LEGISLATION ONLY NO STATE FUNDS ALLOCATED

ARIZONA

Although no funds are appropriated especially for before- and after-school child care, the state expressly encourages local school boards to include school-age child care as a service offered to families. The school board can run the program itself or contract with nonprofit organizations. A school district is exempt from child care licensing requirements if it operates the program in one of its facilities. *

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In FY88, the District provided $16,000 toward start-up costs for 1300 slots in school-age child care programs. *

MASSACHUSETTS

In 1988, the legislature passed a transportation amendment allowing cities and towns to be reimbursed for busing children to day care centers instead of only to their homes after school. The State funds some extended day programs with a part of the $10.2 million allocated for the early childhood development program of the Massachusetts Education Reform Bill. *

MINNESOTA

In 1988, the legislation authorized school districts to establish school-age child care programs. Sixty-seven school districts offer fee-based, extended-day, school-age care through individual community education programs that provide rent, transportation, and recreational enrichment for children after school. *

TEXAS

One of two laws enacted by Texas's 71st Legislature addresses the need for the establishment of child care services for children whose parents work and are not able to find affordable, appropriate care facilities for them. The legislation requires school districts with more than 5,000 students to hold two public hearings annually to consider the need for child care services before- and after-school, during holidays, and vacations. The bill also requires the Texas Department of Community Affairs to provide districts with information on federal dependent care programs. The second bill allows districts to provide transportation to pupils to after-school child care facilities or to pupils who live within two miles of the school they attend and to charge a reasonable fee for this transportation. *

WISCONSIN

Schools are required to make buildings available to any provider offering child care services during after-school hours. However there are no state funds especially set aside for school-age child care programming. *

* A full report by the School-Age Child-Care Project is not available at this time.
Additional Source: *State Child Care Fact Book 1988*, Children's Defense Fund, 122 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 (202) 628-8787

CALIFORNIA

Background

At the request of the president pro tempore of the State Senate, the Senate Office of Research prepared a report in November 1983 on the latchkey problem in California. The 35-page document, *Who's Watching Our Children? The Latchkey Child Phenomenon*, provided the legislature with background for what turned out to be an enormous latchkey funding proposal.

Although the report did not include recommendations for a legislative agenda, it did emphasize the urgency of the latchkey dilemma in California. The report estimated the number of latchkey children in California to be between a low of 600,000 and a high of 800,000.

Action Initiated

Three months after the report was released, Senators David Roberti and Gary Hart introduced the Senate's Latchkey Package that originally called for $100 million to fund the California School Age Community Child Care Program. S.B. 1717 (Roberti) contained the appropriation and S.B. 1718 (Hart) contained the policy language. $50 million was estimated for ongoing program funding, and $50 million for a one-time capital outlay of portable buildings, equipment, instructional materials, school district assessment costs, and outreach/technical assistance.

The latchkey bills were ultimately amended to appropriate $35 million "to fund extended day care programs and to stimulate the creation of an additional 30,000 child care spaces for children whose families can afford to pay for care."

Outcome

Both houses of the Legislature passed the Senate's latchkey package with overwhelming and bipartisan support. However, in September 1984, Governor George Duekmejian vetoed the legislation, even though his own Child Development Programs Advisory Committee had served in an advisory role in developing the package. Instead of signing the legislation, the Governor appointed a new task force to determine the need for and the availability of child care in the state of California.

In a separate action taken by the California Legislature, the president pro tempore of the Senate requested an additional $60 million for the State Budget for priority child care funding, which included money for latchkey programs. The Governor "blue penciled" all but $4 million of that request, eliminating the possibility for latchkey funding.

Subsequently, Senator Roberti reintroduced the 1985 version of the latchkey bill in the form of S.B. 303, the School Age Community Child Care Act, which was essentially the same as the 1984 proposal. In the closing hours of that legislative session in the fall of 1985, implementation of A.B. 2580, the Welfare Reform Act, known as Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN), was made contingent upon passage of S.B. 303. As a consequence, the bill passed and was signed by the

Governor, but with a much reduced appropriation. Originally calling for $100 million, the appropriation was cut to $16 million annually. The funding was directed as reimbursements from the Department of Education to the local school districts for school-age child care services. In addition, there was a $14 million appropriation for a one-time capital outlay.

The one-time outlay fund was combined with another $22.5 million capital outlay fund to complement the GAIN legislation. There were delays in expending those funds and, as of the fall of 1986, state officials were still seeking clarification from the legislature and legal counsel to ensure proper administration of the funds. Priority was to be given to programs in need of new facilities or those that served low-income children, but all programs were eligible.

Since the passing of S.B. 303, the reimbursement money has helped to subsidize 8,000 children. In addition, another 8,000 children in need of school-age child care are served by these programs but pay the full cost of care. This money has been distributed to the various counties, with size of the grants based on the population of each county.

Most child care advocates and many state officials agree that S.B. 303 needed revisions. Senate Bill 1754, the "cleanup bill" to S.B. 303, was introduced by David Roberti to provide necessary clarification and revisions. The bill would have preserved the ceiling rate of reimbursement at $1.75 per hour and reviewed alternative methods of transporting children from school to program, and would have allowed programs to waive the 50% match requirement (a requirement that programs serve equal numbers of full fee-paying and subsidized children) if they showed the program was trying to reach a large number of low-income children. However, Governor Deukmejian vetoed the bill in the final days of the 1986 California Legislative session.

The "clean-up bill" which was reintroduced and passed in the 1987 California legislative session simplified the waiver procedure and made other improvements. Senator Art Torres of L.A. introduced a package of child care bills in 1988, including one outlining state support for after-school recreational funding. However, these bills failed. The 1988 level of appropriation for S.B. 303 programs was increased to $16.75 million with fifteen percent of this money as an allowance for administrative costs.

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CONNECTICUT

Background

During the 1985 session of the General Assembly, the Human Services Committee began to take a serious look at some of problems related to the state day care delivery system in Connecticut. Based on the Committee's recommendation, the Legislature abolished the Office of Child Day Care and created the new position of Director of Day Care Services under the auspices of the Department of Human Resources, thereby making DHR the lead agency for day care.

At the end of the 1985 session, the Committee's Co-Chairs, Senator Joseph Markley and Representative James Fleming, appointed Representative Peter Nystrom, and lead staff Ann Johnson conducted a comprehensive study of day care during the summer of 1985. The Committee held a series of public hearings for day care providers and came up with a significant number of legislative recommendations for the 1986 session to consider.

Action Initiated

During the 1986 session of the General Assembly, the Human Services Committee introduced H.B. 5803, "An Act Concerning a Comprehensive Child Day Care Management System," otherwise know as the "Republican Day Care Initiative." Among the Committee's recommendations that were included in the bill were:

Wage increases at a total of $3.5 million for state-funded programs, plus a $600,000 supplemental allocation to upgrade state-supported programs, tax credits for employers who underwrite child care costs for their employees, training for family home providers, budget flexibility for state-funded programs, a pilot latchkey grants program, and changes in the licensing of family day care homes to a system of registration.

The legislation called for the establishment of a three-year pilot program. The latchkey grant provided $250,000 for the first year to fund the school-age pilot project which encouraged the use of school facilities for the provision of child day care services before- and after- school. The grants were made available only to municipalities who could sub-contract with private providers to operate the program, and use the funds to offset the costs of increased liability insurance, maintenance, and utility costs. In the final days of the 1986 Legislative Session, H.B. 5803 was passed. Seven municipalities received grants the first year.

Outcome

In 1987, the legislature removed pilot status, thus assuring continued funding, added transportation to the other three categories for grant support, and allowed Boards of Education and any child care provider to apply as well. There were nineteen applicants for the $250,000.

The level of appropriation for the third year, 1988, was $296,300, and twenty-one applicants received grant funding. The funding level for 1989 is $296,300, and

efforts are underway to review funding requests, both from existing grantees as well as a number of new programs.

In addition, in 1988, Senator John Larson supported the funding of a pilot project establishing three Family Resource Centers. With initial funding of $300,000, these projects based on Dr. Ed Ziegler's School of the Twenty-First Century, offer a continuum of child care services, including school-based school-age child care. Three sites are underway: in an urban, a rural and a suburban community.

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FLORIDA

Background

In January 1985, an oversight report entitled, "The State of School-Age Child Care in Florida," was prepared for the Education K-12 Committee of the Florida House of Representatives. The report included the results of a survey of all 67 Florida school districts regarding school involvement in school-age child care, an overview of Florida statutes relating to the development of programs, a summary of benefits and problems regarding state involvement, and recommendations for state involvement. The report indicated that 19 school districts, serving at least 21,736 children, were involved in some form of school-age child care, but that those programs were meeting only a small portion of the demand throughout the state.

Based on their findings, the Committee recommended that the State "continue to endorse a diversity of program models and local options; address the licensing issue; establish a School-Age Child Care Information Exchange or Clearinghouse; provide leadership, assistance, and monitoring services to school-age child care programs and interested communities; and study the possibilities of providing start-up funds for programs, alternative methods of funding care for low- and low-middle-income children, and transportation."

Action Initiated

Soon after the oversight report was released, State Representative Helen Gordan Davis, the Chair of the Select Committee on Children and Youth, introduced House Bill 1072. The bill authorizes funding through the Department of Education to create two programs:

1) a school-age child care incentives program, and
2) a statewide clearinghouse for school-age child care

At least three pilot programs would be funded at 50% of the estimated cost of operation for the 1985-86 and 1986-87 school years. In order to promote diversity, the bill stipulates that grants would be awarded to at least one small school district with up to 5,000 students, one medium-sized district with 4,001 to 25,000 students, and one district with over 25,000 students. The act authorizes local school districts and/or private nonprofit organizations and agencies to administer and implement the incentives program. The statewide clearinghouse would be operated by a private nonprofit organization that would be chosen by the Department of Education on a competitive basis.

The Senate's version of the bill (S.B. 819) was introduced by Senator Betty Castor. In most respects, it was identical to that offered in the House, except that there was no provision for a clearinghouse. No specific dollar amount was attached to either H.S. 1072 or S.B. 819. Sponsors of the bills chose to leave that decision to the Appropriations Committees.

Outcome

Although H.B. 1072 was favorably passed out of both the Education K-12 and the Appropriations Committees, the bill never was placed on the calendar for a formal vote before the end of the legislative session. The Senate companion bill (S.B 819) stalled in the Appropriations Committee, therefore leaving the House Bill without a matching bill to act upon. However, Committee Substitute for House Bill 535, revising the School-Age Child Care Incentives Program, did pass in the spring of 1989.

In July 1986, a new enactment on school-age child care was passed which appropriated $300,000 for start-up/incentive grants for educational and recreational before- and after-school child care programs in the public schools to be funded through the Department of Education. The 1988 level of appropriation was increased to $500,000. In 1989, appropriations were raised to $1.5 million with money coming from the state lottery.

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INDIANA

Background

State Representative John Day (D-Indianapolis), a long time children's advocate, first promoted the idea of a latchkey bill on October 1984 at a statewide conference sponsored by the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children. In his address he suggested the need for legislation that would fund pilot projects for school-age child care programs.

Action Initiated

Representative Day and Bill Spencer (R-Indianapolis) submitted House Bill 1120 in January 1985. In its original form, the bill called for a $600,000 appropriation with no local match required, for each of two years beginning July 1, 1985. The money would be available to schools and/or nonprofit community organizations to establish and operate school-age child care programs for children ages 5-14 years. Schools could house and administer the programs, or schools could permit space to be used by nonprofit agencies, or nonprofit groups could operate programs at their own facilities. The bill received considerable support in two separate hearings, but no vote was ever taken in committee.

At that point, Representative Day submitted a scaled-down amendment to an education bill, Senate Bill 155, sponsored by Senator Frank O'Bannon (D-Corydon). The amendment called for $270,000 with a 10% local match required in either in-kind facilities or funds. No single grant could exceed $27,000. The Interdepartmental Board for the Coordination of Human Services would have supervising authority for the programs.

Outcome

In March 1985 the amendment was offered and was approved by the House. In April, the amendment was approved by the Senate, but funding for the project was reduced by 50%. It became a two-year pilot project with funding for the first year at $270,000. Any money unspent that first year was to carry over to fiscal year 1987 (starting July 1, 1986).

Indiana's state bill was specifically designed to integrate low-income children into school-age child care programs. Grantees had to provide a 10% local match and no single grant could exceed $27,000. Parent fees had to be based on a sliding scale according to family income. Ten not-for-profit programs received state funding. Expecting to receive additional funding in year two of the grant, many programs planned their budgets accordingly. However, all attempts to allocate money for FY87 were stopped. As it happened, 50% of the money was left unspent, so $130,000 was carried over to FY87.

In July 1987 (FY88), an amendment supporting start-up and operational expenses of school-age child care programs, maternal/child health, and local health agencies was passed as part of a five cent per pack tax increase on cigarettes which includes an earmark of one-half cent for public health and child care programs. Funding will continue through FY92. A "sunset" clause was build into the bill which requires a one-time review after 7 years, leading to either cancellation or permanent reenactment. Through the Department of Aging and Community Services, grants can be made to schools, nonprofit organizations and others who either are licensed or who meet standards comparable to licensed programs. In 1988, the level appropriated was $400,000 (28 contracts with no single contract exceeding $30,000), which provided service to approximately 4,200 children. The Legislators increased the appropriation to $550,000 for FY90.

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MAINE

Background

In the fall of 1983, Maine's Department of Human Services and the Department of Educational and Cultural Services initiated and convened a broad-based Child Care Task Force. The Task Force was a committee of 30 volunteers comprised of public and private child care providers, consumer groups, business representatives, educators, state legislators, and other interested individuals.

The goals of the Task Force were to determine the unmet need for child care in Maine and to make recommendations by the fall of 1984 regarding improvements in policies and programs which affect the care of children.

The Task Force was divided into the following working subcommittees: employer-supported child care options, education, needs assessment survey, program, and government. School-age child care was a focus of the education subcommittee (the role of the public schools) and the program subcommittee (new initiatives).

Action Initiated

The Task Force conducted five statewide public hearings during the spring of 1984, as a way to seek information and suggestions from Maine citizens on child care needs and problems.

The Task Force also commissioned MAINEPOLL of Orono, a private survey-research group, to conduct a scientific telephone survey. MAINEPOLL contacted 339 randomly selected Maine households containing children 12 years or under. They determined that 134,000 Maine households or 32% of all households in the state contained children age 12 or younger.

The findings of the study were released in April 1984. Selected survey findings indicated that 18.7% of children from 6-12 (about 25,000 children) spent some time looking after themselves--an average of about 4.4 hours per week. An additional 7.3% (8,500) of this age group spent nearly 4 hours per week "at home alone and with a neighbor or a friend checking on him/her." It also concluded that nearly 1/4 (23.1%) of Maine's children from birth to 12 were looked after for some part of the week in their own home by someone 17 years old or younger.

The survey showed that in 22.8% of the households, at some point in the last 5 years, one or more of the adults was forced to quit work, pass up a job, or discontinue training or education due to the lack of child care. The survey also revealed that 61% of those responsible for 5-12 year olds wanted more before- and after-school care--with half preferring it at the school and half in programs outside the school.

By November 1984, the Task Force was ready to put forth their report which included eleven recommendations, a few of which involved amendments on public school legislation from the Department of Education and Cultural Services. Originally, budget requests for the Department of Human Services totalled $3.3 million for 1986 and 1987, which would have included funds for a new state Office for Child Care Coordination, innovative program and training grants, and three licensors.

The Department's budget and, consequently, the Governor's budget, could not accommodate the majority of the Task Force recommendations. However, one position for a Child Care Coordinator remained. Soon after, an advocacy group of former Task Force members was established. Through their efforts, two pieces of legislation were written and sponsored by Senator Nancy Clark of Freeport. Legislative Document (LD) 1001 called for $1.4 million in innovative child care and training grants, while LD 1390 called for an Office of Child Care Coordination, a funded Child Care Advisory Committee, and three licensing positions.

Outcome

LD 1001 was withdrawn by its sponsor, Senator Nancy Clark, before any legislative action was taken on it. At the end of the 1985 Legislative Session, the Governor's budget passed, thereby funding a child care coordinator and a Child Care Advisory Committee. No licensing positions were included in the funding package.

The Office of Child Care Coordination under the Bureau of Social Services was set up in January 1986. Its purpose is to administer funds, gather information, and help with referrals. At the 112th session of the state legislature, $50,000 was allocated as start-up money for school-age child care programs. Day care centers, recreation departments, public schools, nonprofits, and youth-serving organizations may apply for 25% of their first-year costs up to $10,000 from this pool of funds if they raise the other 75% of the money. Six contracts were awarded--all of them to nonprofit community organizations (Girl Scouts, Community Action Programs, etc.). None of the funds were earmarked for low-income children.

Since Governor John R McKernan took office in 1987, child care, along with human resource development, has been a major priority for Maine state government. In 1987, the Legislature enacted an unprecedented $1.5 million child care package for the 1988-89 biennium. Most of these initiatives are on-going annual appropriations. This included a consultant position in the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to work with local schools and communities on the establishment of school-age child care programs.

In 1988, a child care package of $3.5 million was enacted. Included was an additional $75,000 for before- and after-school child care, making the ongoing annual total available $125,000 per year. Some of this funding can be used for second or third year costs (in addition to start-up and first year costs) of these programs including staff salaries, utilities and maintenance.

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NEW JERSEY

Background

In December of 1983, representatives from the New Jersey Community Education Development Center; New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women; New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services; and the Camden Department of Children's Services formed the NJ Coalition for School-Age Child Care. The Coalition convened New Jersey's first statewide conference on school-age child care. The Conference, held in March 1984, had two primary goals: to bring the issue of latchkey children and the need for solutions to this problem into public prominence at the state and local level, and to provide information on start-up and operation of programs.

Members of the Coalition include state and local government personnel, school-age child care program providers, and representatives from a variety of youth-serving organizations and school-age child care advocates. The Coalition meets monthly to share information, plan for public awareness and training opportunities, and promote the growth and expansion of quality school-age child care programs. Since its inception, the Coalition has sponsored four statewide conferences on school-age child care and has continued to offer support and technical assistance to new and existing programs. A major effort of the Coalition at present is to secure regulation of school-age child care programs in New Jersey.

Action Initiated

By the fall of 1984, two legislative bills on school-age child care were introduced. Assemblywoman Walker submitted A.B. 2541, an act authorizing the establishment of school-age child care programs in both the public schools and/or in community facilities. The bill would have appropriated $5 million to the Department of Education. Senator Gormley's bill, S.B. 2418, was considerably less ambitious. While both bills would have allowed local school boards, public agencies, or nonprofit organizations to operate the programs, Gormley's version appropriated $500,000 to the Department of Human Services to fund before- and after-school child care.

In December 1986, two legislative bills were still pending. Assemblyman Doria's bill (A-1878) would provide $3,400,000 for the development of school-age child care in the public schools, and Senator Gormley's bill (S-1721) would appropriate $500,000 to encourage and support school-age child care programs.

Outcome

Senator Gormley's bill (S-1721) was enacted and funding was approved for FY88 in the amount of $500,000 to be handled through the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) for start-up and expansion of school-age child care, including subsidies to support sliding fee scales based on income. The first year grant was used to plan this program, to purchase supplies and materials for already existing school-age child care programs. In subsequent years, the funding is to subsidize the cost of care for eligible children in school-age child care programs and to pay for services and start-up costs of running the programs. Public schools, nonprofits, and public agencies such as park and recreation departments are eligible for the funding. Grants have ranged from $10,000 to $94,000 per county. In addition, other child care measures have been introduced in connection with welfare reform legislation.

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NEW YORK

Background

On January 6, 1983, newly elected Governor Mario Cuomo, in his State of the State message, addressed the critical need for programs that provide care and supervision for school-age children during nonschool hours. He requested the New York Council on Children and Families to "report to me its recommendations for the most effective use of state, local, and voluntary resources to achieve greater school-community partnerships for after-school programs." That official go-ahead from the Governor prompted a series of statewide initiatives.

Action Initiated

School-Age Child Care in New York State: Cooperative Strategies for Solving the Problem of Latchkey Children is the report that answered Governor Cuomo's request for information and recommendations from the Council. The 38-page report provided background information, furnished profiles of existing model programs, and offered 18 recommendations that addressed the issues of financing, regulation, legislative initiatives, and interagency cooperation on the state level.

In the spring of 1984, through funding available from the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Council on Children and Families initiated a school-age child care project which would promote the development of school-age child care. In addition, a project coordinator was assigned to facilitate the interagency aspects of the legislation.

One year after Governor Cuomo made his address to the New York State Legislature, Republican Senator Mary Goodhue, the chair of the Senate Committee on Child Care, introduced an act which would authorize funds for start up of new school-age child care programs in 1985. The act limited individual proposals for "start-up costs, including planning, rental, operational, and equipment costs" to a maximum of $10,000. The legislation instructed the Department of Social Services to work with the Council and the Division for Youth in selecting programs.

Private nonprofit organizations or governmental subdivisions were eligible to apply. The act encouraged programs to use public school buildings and required that preference be given to programs starting in areas that were "significantly underserved," that served low-income families, and that encouraged parent involvement.

Outcome

In July 1984, Governor Cuomo signed the $300,000 act into law. Thirty-five programs across the state were awarded up to $10,000 for one year from the appropriated funds in FY85. $65,450 was awarded to seven programs in New York City with the rest of the state receiving $234,550. Altogether, the grants enabled 1,500 children to receive new services.

On the closing days of the 1986 legislative session, an Omnibus Education Bill was passed which included provisions for transportation between school and before- and/or after-school child care. The legislation applies to any child in grades K-8. The bill was signed by the Governor in August, and it took effect in July 1987. The New York State Department of Social Services promulgated school-age child care regulations in September 1987. Outside of New York City, programs that operate for more than fifteen hours per week must apply for a New York State Department of Social Services permit to operate.

In FY86, $300,000 was awarded to fund thirty-three programs, and in FY87, the amount awarded was doubled to fund sixty-three programs. $600,000 was awarded again in FY88 (ending March 31, 1989) at which time over 200 programs were operating, serving approximately 10,000 children. In 1989/90, another 60 programs will be selected to receive $10,000 start-up grants.

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OHIO

Background

In 1983, State Superintendent Walter and the State Board of Education established an Early Childhood Commission to examine early childhood education and latchkey programs and the role of the public schools. The Commission's members represented a diverse group which included district superintendents, school board members, parents, providers, and state administrators from departments of special and early childhood education. The Commission's mandate was to look at four areas of school involvement in early childhood: early identification, early entrance screening, preschool programming, and school-age child care (latchkey). Each subcommittee came up with specific recommendations and strategies for the Department of Education, the local school districts, and the General Assembly.

Action Initiated

In 1985, the "latchkey" subcommittee recommended to the Department and the legislature that a competitive grants program be established for the development of model school-age child care programs. The "Early Childhood Bill," Amended Substitute H.B. 238, specified that in year one, nine local school districts receive grants of up to $20,000 each. Three of these grants ($60,000 out of $180,000) were awarded on a competitive basis in the "latchkey" area--one in urban Cleveland, one in suburban Groveport, and one in rural Madison. At the end of the grant cycle, each model was required to write up planning and implementation guidelines for replication purposes. This H.B. 238 also included a competitive grants program that would encourage County Boards of Education to facilitate interagency cooperation in regard to early childhood and school-age child care programming. Thirty-five grants of $2,000 each were awarded in 1985, and thirty-five additional grants were awarded in 1986. Although no moneys have been available since, many of the interagency collaborative committees established through the grant projects remain in place, and now form the nucleus within counties for the implementation of programs for young children.

Outcome

During the second year, FY 1987, the Department announced an "adoption" incentive grants program of $6,000 each that will fund 30 school districts wishing to "adopt" for themselves one of the latchkey, preschool, or early childhood screening models that were developed under the FY86 funding.

H.B. 238 also included a competitive grants program that would encourage county boards of education to facilitate interagency cooperation in regard to early childhood and latchkey programs. Thirty-five grants of up to $2,000 each were awarded in 1985, and thirty-five grants were awarded in 1986 for planning and development. Funding totaled $249,288 in FY88. The FY89 level of appropriation was increased to $256,767 which includes 42 adoption grants for early identification, preschool, and school-age child care. The budget for the next biennium includes funding of $252,000 with approximately $50,000 going to school-age child care. H.B. 60, pending as of July 1989, would permit Boards of Education to use school funds in the operation of latchkey programs, to enter into agreements with public and private non-profit providers for the operation of such programs, and allow the State Board of Education to adopt rules establishing standards for school-age child care programs.

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PENNSYLVANIA

Background

In November of 1984, Temple University's Child Care Department hosted a Child Care Symposium at which a variety of child development specialists and child care advocates came together to discuss the critical issues regarding preschool and school-age child care in Pennsylvania. Attending that meeting were representatives of the newly formed Women's Agenda, a statewide advocacy organization, made up of more than 25 associations and groups concerned with the needs of women and children. Based on the recommendations proposed at the Symposium, the Women's Agenda submitted the Women's and Children's Budget in January 1985. Included in their Budget were two requests for latchkey initiatives: an amendment to the school code that would access school-age child care programs to the public schools; and a request for $2 million dollars for a latchkey demonstration project.

Action Initiated

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW), requested funds from the Governor's Budget for latchkey initiatives (start-up and expansion of School-age child care services through support for program development, technical assistance, training and operational expenses). Ultimately in July 1985, the Governor recommended that the Department allocate for the latchkey program $1.5 million.

A separate effort on school-age child care was initiated by Representative Elinor Taylor who, in April 1985, introduced House Bill 999, a bill that would have appropriated $5 million to public and private schools to provide before- and after-school care. Originally, the bill requested the Department of Education to administer the funds. However, a group of child care advocates, which included representatives from the Women's Agenda, met with Representative Taylor to suggest several amendments to the bill. One recommendation centered on the administrative auspices of the bill.

The DPW also applied for the Federal Dependent Care Grant, which enabled it to expand its school-age child care demonstration project.

Outcome

Because of inevitable delays, only $745,000 of the original $1.5 million in latchkey funds were distributed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1986.

DPW funded one proposal within each of four geographic quadrants which it had defined. School districts and nonprofit organizations were encouraged to apply. Different approaches to start-up and development were taken by the various recipients of the state grants. While funds can be used to subsidize the cost of the care initially, such grants are available only for three years at the end of which, programs should be self-supporting. Funding for this program has been continued since its beginning and will be funded in the amount of $1.6 million for Fiscal Year 1989/90.

The four regional demonstration projects have been evaluated and the project that used a model of "mini-grants" for either the creation or expansion of school-age child care programs was deemed the most efficient. For the State's Fiscal Year 1989/90, the three other regions are adopting this model in order to determine if it can be replicated throughout the State.

In addition, a Summer School-Age Program was initiated to serve those families who have other arrangements during the school year but need assistance during the summer months. In Fiscal Year 1988/89, the DPW allocated $6.6 million for school-age child care and $759,373 for its summer school-age child care program for a total of $8.1 million.

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RHODE ISLAND

Background

In early 1986, the Rhode Island Joint Legislative Commission on Child Care, chaired by Representative Nancy Benoit (D-Woonsocket), identified seven priority issues for the State in child care. The need for school-age child care programs was identified as one of those priorities and a subcommittee on school-age children was established. In October, the subcommittee sponsored a statewide conference on school-age child care to heighten awareness of the problem and to present program models and information.

Action Initiated

At the request of Lt. Governor Richard Licht, Representative Benoit and Senator John Reed sponsored H.B. 86-H7177, the School-Age Child Care Act, which was enacted in the final sessions of the 1986 General Assembly. The bill makes available up to $200,000 per fiscal year for each of three years, ending June 30, 1989 at which time further commitments will be considered. The purpose of the bill is to assist in the planning, establishment, operation and expansion of school-age child care programs, and to foster cooperation between schools and day care providers. The maximum grant to any one community is $30,000 with a 25% local match requirement.

Actual funding for the SACC Bill makes available $150,000 through the legislature and an additional $50,000 which comes from the Governor's Focus on the Family Program. The Rhode Island Department for Children and Their Families, the state's Office of Higher Education, and Rhode Island College will collaborate on the administration of the grant program.

Outcome

As of November 1986, 14 proposals were received by the joint review committee. Eight programs were recommended for full or partial funding, which totalled $187,500. Communities that received grants between $10,000-$30,000 with a 25 percent local match requirement were Woonsocket, Cranston, Warren, Warwick, Providence, Central Falls, and Cumberland. In FY87, nine programs were funded, serving 329 children. Additional assistance for the ongoing costs of these programs was provided by $396,410 in 1988. For the year 1988-89, the state awarded money to ten non-profit agencies. The grants ranged from $17,000 - $25,000 and 315 new child care slots were created.

In 1989, Representative Benoit sponsored three bills, H.B. 89-H5531, H.B. 89-H6232, and H.B. 89-H5537 all of which passed in July 1989. The first appropriated an additional $100,000 per fiscal year for each of the three years ending June 30, 1992. Included in this bill is an allowance for 5% of the total appropriation to be set aside for training school-age child care staff. The second bill provides that any school district, which provides transportation between school and a day care center, shall be able to receive State reimbursement under the school-aid formula. The last bill mentioned above is a resolution creating a twenty-five member permanent legislative commission whose purpose it shall be to ensure that Rhode

Island has a network of child care services and to act as an advisory body to the child day care division of the Department for Children and Their Families.

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